

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP2005/003618

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61F2/16

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 443 506 A (GARABET ET AL) 22 August 1995 (1995-08-22)	1-4, 6-11,14, 15,20, 21,26, 30,31, 33,34 12,13, 16-18, 22-25,27
A	column 2, line 16 - column 3, line 3 column 7, line 24 - line 44 column 13, line 40 - column 15, line 63; claims 1,3,6,17; figures 7a,b -/-	

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search 29 August 2005	Date of mailing of the international search report 02/09/2005
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Merté, B

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 356 050 A (STORZ INSTRUMENT COMPANY) 28 February 1990 (1990-02-28)	1,3,4,6, 8-10,14, 20,22, 23,26,28
A	column 1, line 4 - line 9 column 4, line 15 - line 38; claims 1-3,6,11,12; figures 7,11	2,7, 11-13, 15,16, 30,31,34
X	US 6 117 171 A (SKOTTUN ET AL) 12 September 2000 (2000-09-12)	1-4,7, 9-12, 14-16, 20,21, 26,28, 30-32
A	column 1, line 7 - line 9 column 3, line 51 - column 5, line 49; claims 4,6,14; figures 2,2,6	5,6,8, 22,23, 27,29, 33,34
A	US 4 816 031 A (PFOFF ET AL) 28 March 1989 (1989-03-28)	1-4, 6-16,18, 21-23, 25-27, 30-34
	abstract; claim 1; figures 1,2	

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: 17 because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

See FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

IAP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 23 AUG 2006

Continuation of II.2

Claim: 17

The feature "in the form of one or more drops" is not clear in respect of the drawings. It is especially not distinguishable from the prior art.

The applicant is advised that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established normally cannot be the subject of an international preliminary examination (PCT Rule 66.1(e)). In its capacity as International Preliminary Examining Authority the EPO generally will not carry out a preliminary examination for subjects that have not been searched. This also applies to cases where the claims were amended after receipt of the international search report (PCT Article 19) or where the applicant submits new claims in the course of the procedure under PCT Chapter II. After entry into the regional phase before the EPO, however, an additional search can be carried out in the course of the examination (cf. EPO Guidelines, Part C, VI, 8.5) if the deficiencies that led to the declaration under PCT Article 17(2) have been remedied.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP2005/003618

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 5443506	A	22-08-1995	NONE		
EP 0356050	A	28-02-1990	US	4932966 A	12-06-1990
			BR	8904102 A	10-04-1990
			CA	1322261 C	21-09-1993
			DE	68902614 D1	01-10-1992
			DE	68902614 T2	21-01-1993
			EP	0356050 A1	28-02-1990
			ES	2030637 T1	16-11-1992
			JP	2008242 C	11-01-1996
			JP	2167157 A	27-06-1990
			JP	7044938 B	17-05-1995
US 6117171	A	12-09-2000	NONE		
US 4816031	A	28-03-1989	NONE		